



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

June 13, 2006

The Honorable André Bauer
President of the Senate
State House, 1st Floor, East Wing
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval S. 1302, R-448 relating to open enrollment in Sumter County. I am vetoing this legislation at the request of the local delegation.

Since coming to office, I have been clear in my belief that providing parents greater educational freedom is essential to improving the performance of our schools. While much attention has been drawn to my willingness to extend choices for parents to pursue private school options, my support of school choice extends to all schools – both private and public. Be it in the form of magnet school programs, the creation of charter schools, or simply allowing open enrollment across districts, educational freedom has demonstrated its ability to improve student achievement and I believe more parents should be able to avail themselves of these options.

The same educational freedoms that we are willing to offer the parents and students of the Garden Gate subdivision are warranted throughout Sumter County and across this state. I had intended to support this legislation, despite the narrow focus, but the local delegation requested a veto of this bill. and I am honoring their request.

For this reason, I am returning S. 1302, R-448.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Sanford